

U.S. Application No. 10/801,349
AMENDMENT A

Attorney Docket No.: 3926.076

IN THE DRAWINGS

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) for Figures 1, 2, and 3 are attached.

Fig. 1 is amended to show a heat sink (6) on the outside of the lens, and to show that the light source (4) comprises an array of individual light sources (7).

REMARKS

Review and reconsideration of the Office Action of July 26, 2005, are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-16 were canceled.

Claims 24, 26, 29, 31 and 32 are merely objected to.

Claims 17 to 23, 25, 27, 28, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Forbes in view of Holz et al.

Claims 24, 26, 29 and 32 are presented in independent form and are in condition for allowance.

Support for the amendment of claim 17 can be found in original claim 17.

Office Action

Turning now to the Office Action in greater detail, the paragraphing of the Examiner is adopted.

Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings and advises that the following features must be shown:

- "a flat heat sink in the form of a disc is arranged on the side of the lens which faces away from the light source and is thermally connected to the cooling element" as claimed in Claim 29.

In response, Applicants amend Fig. 1 to show this feature.

- "the light source represents an array comprising two or more individual light sources, which is arranged on a mount and whose mount is thermally conductively connected to the cooling element" as claimed in Claim 30.

In response, Applicants amend Fig. 1 to show this feature.

- "two or more flat elements are mechanically connected to the reflector" as claimed in Claim 31.

In response, Applicants refer the Examiner to Fig. 2, elements 5a, as well as Fig. 3 showing elements 5a connected to cooling rod which is connected to the light source 4, and the associated text at paragraph [00035] of the specification.

Acceptance of the amended drawings and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Specification

The Examiner objects to the disclosure because of the following informalities:

Paragraph [00036], line 7, the reference numeral "5" is incorrect and should be changed to -4--.

In response, Applicants have amended Paragraph [00036] accordingly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 17 to 23, 25, 27, 28, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Forbes in view of Holz et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Forbes shows a headlight lens made of glass, having a web 29 extending between the lamp and lens for conducting heat from the auxiliary reflector 27 to the lens plate 28.

The lens plate 28 is made of glass. The web 29 is made of glass. The selection of glass for any element attached to a

headlight lens represents the state of the art in that, as the headlight is turned on and heats, causing elements exposed to the heat to expand and contract, the thermal coefficient of expansion of the glass web would of course be the same as the thermal coefficient of expansion of the glass lens. By selecting the same materials, there would be no thermal stress due to different rates of expansion and contraction of dissimilar materials at the point at which the web contacts the headlight lens plate contact.

The use of a metal cooling element thermally connected to the light source and extending from the light source to the lens and projecting into the lens or passing through it would be an unobvious choice. Where an air gap in the junction between the cooling rod and lens is to be prevented, dissimilar materials would not be selected. Where a rapidly expanding metal cooling element passes through a slowly expanding glass lens, it would be expected that the expanding metal might cause the glass to crack.

Further, the glass of Forbes is transparent. As such, it would not prevent transmission of light between the light source or reflector and the environment. A metal cooling element in contrast is not opaque. The fact that the superior cooling effect of metal would outweigh the disadvantage of blocking or at least reflecting or scattering light would not be apparent.

Finally, people equate the headlights of a vehicle with the eyes of a human. Although this has nothing to do with pure function of the vehicle, it is preferred by consumers that the headlights of a vehicle be clear and attractive. This is a further reason why those designing headlights would not consider positioning a metal cooling element in the front of a headlight.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17, as amended, and the subject matter of claims depending therefrom, is not obvious over the cited prior art.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 24, 26, 29, 31, and 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

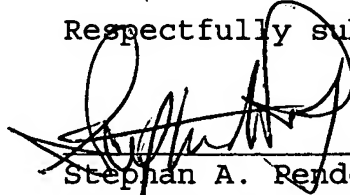
In response, Applicants amend Claims 24, 26, 29 and 32 to independent form. Please charge the fee for two additional independent claims to the deposit account indicated below.

The Examiner considers the prior art made of record and not relied upon pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

Applicant has reviewed these references and has no further comments.

Applicant believes that all the claims are now allowable. Favorable consideration and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should further issues remain prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: January 23, 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE

I hereby certify that the foregoing AMENDMENT A for U.S. Application No. 10/801,349 filed March 16, 2004, was deposited in first class U.S. mail, with sufficient postage, addressed: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on **January 23, 2006**.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0877.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephan A. Pendorf', is written over a horizontal line.

Stephan A. Pendorf